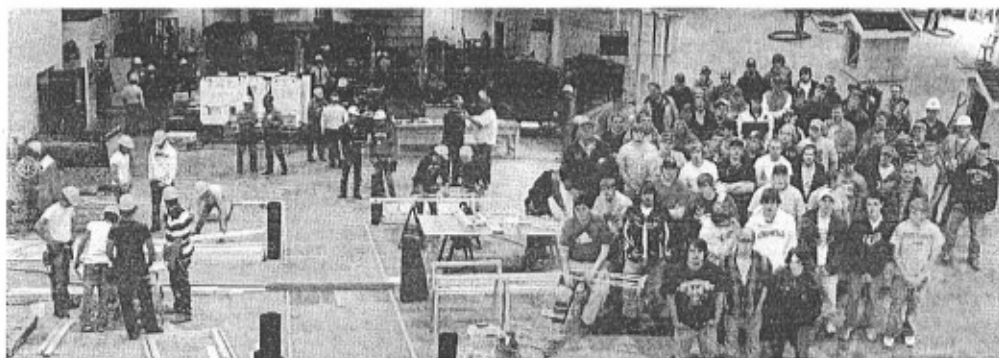


Students Demonstrate Construction Skills



The sounds of wood saws and the smell of freshly cut wood filled the halls at the Jacobetti Center at Northern Michigan University on April 18th.

Ten teams of high school juniors and seniors from across the Upper Peninsula were busy constructing scaled buildings during the second annual U.P. Construction Skills Challenge.

"This has brought together a lot of different groups; all drawn by the construction industry," said Mike Andary, NMU Construction Management faculty who Chaired the event. The dedication of the volunteers and the generosity from the donors made the event possible. Administrators, faculty, industry partners and students all provided vital input to the competition

Tony Retaskie, Executive Director of the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, said students had to build the structures under the pressure of time and space constraints. "At some point during the competition, the students were also required to complete an electrical component. It's educational, and it

is an excellent experience with a skilled trade. The competition incorporates teamwork as well as the ability to effectively lead and/or manage a project."

The teams were judged on the criteria of floor & wall framing systems, roof system, electrical construction, safety and teamwork. The 4-foot by 4-foot structures were transported back to each school with the goal to have them completed, and then raffled by each program.

Nearly 50 students worked hard to complete their respective structures, but only three teams were able to take home medals. First place went to Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District - Manistique High School. Second place was Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District - Escanaba High School. Third place went to Marquette High School's team.

Retaskie said he hopes to make the challenge an annual event. For more information and a list of donors, go to <http://www.upcsc.org/>.

Business After Hours

You are cordially invited to join us for an evening of celebration, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and great networking!

July 23, 5:30-7:30 PM EST
Pioneer Trail Park, Escanaba

September 23, 5:00-6:30 PM CST
Riverside Country Club, Menominee

October 8, 5:00-7:00 PM EST
Elizabeth's Chop House, Marquette

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